

The Fort Jackson Leader

**Block Leave
Special Edition**

Tuesday, December 16, 2008

Published for Basic Combat Training and Advance Individual Training Soldiers at Fort Jackson

www.fortjacksonleader.com

Heading home for the holidays



Leader File Photo

More than 8,000 Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training Soldiers will buy tickets to travel home for the holidays during Block Leave, which begins Wednesday. The Soldiers will return for training Jan. 3.

Know the rules for air travel

Transportation Security Administration

We salute and appreciate the sacrifice of all the men and women of the U.S. Armed Services. The following are some helpful hints for screening your person, carry-on bags and checked baggage to help you achieve a trouble-free travel experience at the airport.

We provide information for family members who would like to obtain gate passes to accompany or meet loved ones at the gate. In addition, we provide comprehensive airport security information for severely injured military personnel.

Screening of Military Personnel

When you arrive at the checkpoint, the following tips will assist you in getting through the screening process easily and efficiently:

- Keep boarding pass and ID available.

- Remove class A uniform jacket, metal items in pockets and metal belt buckle and submit them for X-ray screening.

- Military personnel in uniform, with a valid military ID are not required to remove their footwear unless it triggers the walk-through metal detector.

- Ensure carry-on luggage does not contain any prohibited items.

Packing Tips for Military Personnel

Pack heavier, denser equipment/personal items at the top of checked baggage (i.e. helmets, boots and books). Place clothing and smaller items in the bottom of the bag. This will help TSA screeners repack the bag neatly if a physical search is required. Take

See **TSA** Page 4



What if ...?

You are involved in an accident?

Add winter driving conditions to a relaxed holiday atmosphere, and accidents can happen. If you are involved in an accident, immediately call the appropriate local authorities. Then, Soldiers should call their unit at the number in the "Points of Contact" list.

You lose your ticket?

In all the excitement of the holiday season, it is easy to misplace important documents. If you lose your travel ticket or reservation information, call Victory Travel during normal duty hours at (800) 221-3503 or (803) 751-5812.

You report early?

If your travel plans change and you have to report to Fort Jackson from Block Leave early, you should report to 2nd Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment, 193rd Infantry Brigade at 12000 Dixie Road. You can reach them by phone at (803) 751-5717/5944.

You have a medical concern?

If you encounter a situation where you need emergency, acute or urgent care or hospitalization, you must contact the Military Medical Support Office at (888) 647-6676. See "Need Medical Care" for more detailed information.

You are approached by the media?

The media may ask questions about the war, your training or your decision to join the Army. As a Soldier, you are the Army's best spokesperson and are always representing the military, on or off duty.

Here are a few tips to help if asked for an interview:

- ✓ **Be honest and forthright.** Talk about your personal experiences, the value of your training and the mentorship of your drill sergeants.
- ✓ **Don't speak for the command or other Soldiers.**
- ✓ **Don't speculate about issues you're not involved in.**
- ✓ **Remember security.** Don't discuss specific numbers, locations or dates of present or future operations.
- ✓ **Speak in terms familiar to non-military people.** Avoid Army jargon and acronyms.
- ✓ **Tell the reporter if you don't know the answer to a question.** If you can't answer a question, say why.
- ✓ **Assume that everything you say is "on the record" and never say "no comment."**
- ✓ **If you don't have time or interest, you do have the right to decline an interview.**

You have any other questions?

For more information contact your unit at the number in the "Points of Contact" list or visit online at www.jackson.army.mil.

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Points of Contact

Installation Operations Center (24 hours)
(803) 751-5166/5167
American Red Cross (Armed Forces Emergency Services Center)
(877) 272-7337
Army Emergency Relief
(803) 751-5256
Defense Military Pay Office
(803) 751-6243
Greyhound Bus Ticket Office
(803) 771-0159
(803) 751-4819
Victory Travel (airline)
(803) 751-5812
Installation Safety Office
(803) 751-6004
Military Police
(803) 751-3113
Moncrief Army Community Hospital
(803) 751-2273
NCO Academy
(803) 751-3010/3012
Training Support Battalion (Soldier Support Institute)
(803) 751-3635/3846/3683
369th Adjutant General Battalion
(803) 751-5080/5542
TRICARE (Humana) Information
(800) 444-5445
U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School
(803) 413-8189
165th Infantry Brigade
(803) 751-5089
193rd Infantry Brigade
(803) 751-6343
1st Battalion,
13th Infantry Regiment
(803) 413-4148
2nd Battalion,
13th Infantry Regiment
(803) 751-4888/4362
2nd Battalion,
60th Infantry Regiment
(803) 751-4888
(803) 361-0054
3rd Battalion,
60th Infantry Regiment
(803) 751-2113
3rd Battalion,
34th Infantry Regiment
(803) 751-5089
2nd Battalion,
39th Infantry Regiment
(803) 403-6519/6502
1st Battalion,
61st Infantry Regiment
(803) 751-1194
187th Ordnance Battalion
(803) 751-6113

Commanding General's 2008 Block Leave Holiday Message



Brig. Gen. Bradley W. May

The holiday season is a special time — a time to reflect on the kind of nation we are: a nation whose character and decency are embodied in our armed forces.

This holiday season, let us give thanks for the blessings God has granted to our nation and in each of our lives. May the joy of the holidays renew our

commitment to working together for a future of peace, opportunity and hope.

I ask that you keep in your thoughts and prayers those Soldiers currently serving abroad who are unable to be home for the holidays. Also, please remember their families who make great sacrifices enduring separation from their loved ones during the holidays.

Many of you will be embarking in all directions — north and south, east and west — to gather and celebrate this holiday season. The holiday season is a time for social gatherings with co-workers, friends and families. As we prepare for the holiday festivities, we must remember safety.

My one holiday wish is your safety. There is hardly a day that goes past when someone in the Army family is not personally affected by an accident.

The holiday season increases our accident exposure due to the increased nationwide travel. So I would like to take this time also to wish you a very safe holiday season and stress

that you exercise good judgment at all times so that you or a member of your family aren't involved in an accident.

As our safety director puts it — safety equals discipline. Nothing could be more true. Discipline should not only be practiced during your time away, but also prior to your departure and return.

There is nothing more disturbing to me than to learn of an accident that could have been prevented. Regardless of your holiday destination or your mode of travel, you should be able to return safely to Fort Jackson if you follow some simple advice.

Make sure your vehicle is in good working condition; leave early if you are going on a long trip; take frequent breaks; be alert for distracted drivers; and, most importantly, ensure all occupants are wearing seat belts.

If you plan on attending or hosting a holiday gathering, and your gathering will include indulging in alcoholic beverages, please do so in moderation. As we all know: drinking and driving don't mix.

Plan ahead for a designated driver, or as host, be prepared to provide an alternate means of transportation to ensure your friends or family members return home safely. To you, Basic Combat Training Soldiers, if all else fails you have two powerful tools to ensure a safe holiday season: common sense and good judgment.

In order to emphasize the importance of safety this holiday season, today's special edition of *the Leader* will contain safety guidelines and information for the holiday season.

On another very important holiday note, I

want to take this time to salute our deployed Soldiers who will be spending the holiday season in far away places, protecting the many freedoms that make this country great.

I ask that you keep in your thoughts and prayers those Soldiers currently serving abroad who are unable to be home for the holidays. Also, please remember their families who make great sacrifices enduring separation from their loved ones during the holidays.

All of you are important members of the Fort Jackson community. And when I say, "all," I am not only referring to BCT Soldiers, but to their leaders and other permanent party members, as well as our civilians and all of our families. Loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage flourish on Fort Jackson every day of the year. I can't say how much I appreciate the way we live our Army Values.

Victory would not start here, if it were not for the effort and hard work put forth by a magnificent team. I have only been here for the latter half of this year, but I can tell you from my heart that I am so proud to command so many dedicated and professional team members. You are not only important to the mission we execute here on Fort Jackson, but you are critical to the success of all Army missions worldwide.

Please enjoy the holidays and accompanying time off from work. Thank you for serving our country. Jan, Chad and I personally extend our gratitude in wishing you a safe and enjoyable holiday season filled with many blessings.

ARMY STRONG!

Don't go Absent Without Leave under any circumstances

Provost Marshal Office

Think twice before going Absent Without Leave because that extra day of vacation could cost a career, privileges, pay and even earn time behind bars.

Action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice can be taken against you if you choose to take an unauthorized vacation.

The first charge will be under Article 85, or Absent Without Leave, which could result in adverse disciplinary or administrative action. Once a Soldier decides to take 30 or more vacation days without authorization, he or she is dropped from the unit as a deserter. A second charge under Article 86, Desertion, is then appropriate.

When this action takes place, a federal warrant goes out for the Soldier who thought the military gave him or her a free vacation. The warrant is initiated by the unit then sent to the United States Army Deserter Information Point. USADIP then puts the information in the National Crime In-

formation Center.

A DD Form 553 (Deserter/Absentee wanted by Armed Forces) is then sent to all bases and police departments in the missing Soldier's home of record area.

Once returned to military control, Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training Soldiers in a deserter status will be sent to Fort Knox, Ky., for out-processing. All permanent-party Soldiers will be returned to their assigned unit for desertion and not a personnel control facility due to changes in Army regulations in 2001.

The holiday rush is a busy time for everyone, but don't think that will prevent you from being caught. One way or another, absent Soldiers will be caught, whether one turns himself or herself in, someone calls him or her in or he or she gets picked up for another charge.

The unit is responsible for maintaining 100 percent accountability. It's

See AWOL Page 4

The Fort Jackson Leader

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ARMY VALUES WORD SEARCH

ARMY VALUES
BARRACKS
BATTLE BUDDY
CADENCE
DISCIPLINE
DRILL SERGEANT
DUTY
FIT TO WIN
FORT JACKSON
GRADUATION
HONOR
INTEGRITY
LOYALTY

MARKSMANSHIP
NBC CHAMBER
PERSONAL COURAGE
RESPECT
ROAD MARCH
SELFLESS SERVICE
SOLDIER
TEAM WORK
TRAINING
UNIFORM
VICTORY TOWER
WARRIOR ETHOS

Illegal drug use spells trouble for Soldiers

Army Substance Abuse Program

The long awaited leave is here. You are home again. The memories of the past few weeks, the stress of the days filled with early rising, physical training, and people yelling at you every day are fading. Finally you can relax and enjoy time with family and friends.

There are also temptations waiting for you. A potent scent may grab your senses and entice you to join a smoke-filled circle; several white lines may look inviting, or maybe those little pills with the letter in the middle will lure you.

As temptation wrestles with your conscience, you are left with two choices: partake or walk away.

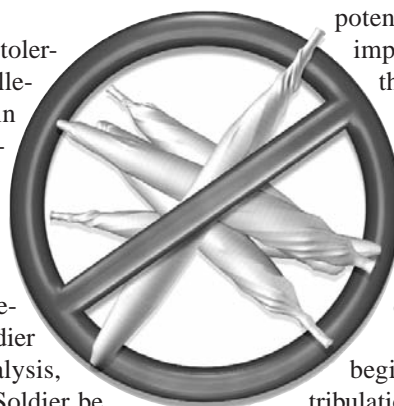
Before you make that decision, understand that your responsibilities as a member of the Army require you to steer clear

of illegal substances.

The Army enforces a zero-tolerance policy for drug abuse. Illegal substance use can result in arrest, a federal criminal conviction (that's right, a felony), separation from the service and the end of a promising career.

Abuse of illegal drugs is serious misconduct and, if a Soldier comes up positive on a urinalysis, the regulation mandates the Soldier be processed for separation. So what's the worst that can happen if you get kicked out?

Your "character of service" on the DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) can be classified as dishonorable or other than honorable, which can influence how you are viewed by



potential employers. It is important to understand that most businesses have capital interest and will generally use an applicant's prior military service and felony convictions as a basis for denying employment.

It could be just the beginning of the many tribulations you can face. You could lose all of your Veterans Affairs benefits, many of your civil rights (including the right to vote), and you may not qualify for federal student loans.

On the other hand, what if your test comes back positive and you say you are taking prescription medications?

When a Soldier's drug test result is positive for certain drugs, such as codeine, amphetamines, methamphetamines and Ecstasy, there are checks in place to ensure proper procedures are followed. This includes the review of the positive result by a Medical Review Officer.

The MRO will make the determination as to the legality of the use. It is important that Soldiers only take medicine prescribed by their physician. If it is not prescribed to you, do not take it. If an unprescribed medication shows up on a urinalysis, it will be considered illegal use.

You are a part of the Army, the most powerful force in the world and as a Soldier you are to uphold the ideals set forth in the Constitution.

Remember, you will be tested upon your return. What choice will you make?

Help recruiting, save leave time — sign up for HRAP

Defense Military Pay Office

Soldiers can save some of their leave time during Block Leave by participating in the Hometown Recruiter Assistance Program, which allows new Soldiers to share their Army stories with the youth in their hometown.

Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training Soldiers who participate in the program are authorized up to 10 days of duty with their local Recruiting Office. Soldiers are not charged leave for this period.

A Soldier who wishes to participate in this program must contact his or her local Recruiting Station upon arriving home.

The Recruiting Station will provide the Soldier with a DA Form 4187, which states that the Soldier performed HRAP duty and lists the effective dates.

The form must be signed by the Recruiting Station commander and given to the Soldier for return to Fort Jackson at the conclusion of Block Leave. The Soldier will

then turn in DA Form 4187 along with DA-Form 31 (leave documents) to his or her unit upon returning from Block Leave.

The unit will compile all Soldiers' forms and turn them into the Defense Military Pay Office. With these documents, the DMPO will only charge leave for the days beyond the authorized and approved HRAP duty.

Without a valid DA Form 4187, Soldiers will be charged leave from the departure day from Fort Jackson until returning from Block Leave.

Soldiers who report to Fort Jackson for AIT and who have participated in HRAP through the holidays, must also submit a Travel Voucher DD Form 1351-2.

To complete the Travel Voucher form, complete Blocks 1 through 12, paying special attention to block 1 — checking EFT for Electronic Funds Transfer; block 5 — checking the block for member/employee; block 12 — checking unaccompanied; and block 15 — the itinerary.

Directions for correctly completing the itinerary are: in column (a) enter the year of the voucher under date. Beneath the year of the voucher enter the date of leaving the last duty station. In column (b) list the place departed from and in column (c) the mode of transportation, which will be "PA" for private auto or "PC" for commercial air (at own expense). On the next line enter the information for arrival at the new duty station.

In column (a) enter the date of arrival to Fort Jackson, in column (b) enter Fort Jackson and in column (d) enter "MC" for mission complete. On line 20 (a) sign the form and (b) put current date.

All Department of the Army and Department of Defense forms can be found on Army Knowledge Online (www.us.army.mil) under Self Service, DA Pubs & Forms.

The Travel Voucher DD Form 1351-2 may also be found on www.jackson.army.mil/finance/index.htm or www.dfas.mil/travel.

Safety Contract

Recognizing that I am a Soldier in the United States Army, I understand that I must maintain the same high standards of conduct and discipline at all times, on and off duty.

Always will I use good judgment and take appropriate steps to ensure my personal safety. I understand that the principles of Composite Risk Management I learned during my training is just as applicable to my off-duty activities as they are to training.

Never will I ride with anyone other than sober, well-rested drivers.

Gladly will I wear my seat belt at all times while riding in motor vehicles.

Ever will I demonstrate the Army values in my daily actions: *Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, Personal Courage*

Reasily will I make the extra effort to return safely to home station.

Soldiers who need medical care

Moncrief Army Community Hospital

This information is for Initial Entry Training Soldiers in need of care while on leave. Follow these steps to ensure necessary care is received and bills are paid correctly.

• **Emergency care** (*potential loss of life, limb, or eyesight*):

Call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room. Call or have someone from your family call the Military Medical Support Office within 24 hours toll free at (888) 647-6676.

From the selected menu options, select Medical Care Pre-authorization Assistance or the Customer Service option.

• **Urgent/acute care:** (*cannot wait until you return to Fort Jackson*)

Go to the nearest Military Treatment Facility or Veterans Administration Hospital.

You may call your nearest U.S. Army Recruiting Office or the local American Red Cross for assistance in locating the nearest MTF.

If no MTF is available within 50 miles of your home, call the MMSO toll free at (888) 647-6676 and select the medical care pre-authorization assistance or customer service option.

Care must be authorized before obtaining urgent/acute medical care from a civilian facility or provider.

If you have any problems or questions, please call Moncrief Army Community Hospital at (803) 751-2425/2778.

• **Hospitalization:** If you are hospi-

talized at a civilian hospital, contact the MMSO at (888) 647-6676.

Select the *Report Admission or Customer Service* option and provide information regarding the circumstances. Your admission will be reported to the Patient Administration Office of the Nearest Military Treatment Facility as soon as possible.

• **Pharmacy:** While traveling, a Soldier can have prescriptions filled at a TRICARE network pharmacy if he or she presents a written prescription and his or her military ID card. To find a TRICARE pharmacy, call (866) 363-8779 or visit online at www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE.

Failure to follow these instructions may lead to problems in paying your medical bills.

AWOL (continued from Page 2)

the unit's responsibility to report the offense within 24 hours. Commanders are committed to deterring AWOL and catching Soldiers who are AWOL.

One of the misconceptions still held is that "the unit doesn't care and no one is going to look for me."

Once a Soldier is determined absent, the commander starts calling parents or the spouse. Once the Soldier has been gone for more than 24 hours, the commander prepares an AWOL packet, which consists of notification of AWOL status to the adjutant general, finance office and the military police.

After this information is prepared and turned in, the Soldier's personal gear will be inventoried and turned in.

If a Soldier is gone for more than 30 days, he or she is dropped from the unit's roster and his or her name will be sent

to the USADIP.

At this point, the Soldier becomes the responsibility of the military police. Charges are brought against the Soldier, and the Soldier's name will be placed into NCIC, which makes the AWOL status known to all law enforcement agencies.

If stopped by a police officer, and the police officer runs an AWOL Soldier's name through the computer, then the police will know about the Soldier being wanted. The officer will apprehend the Soldier, and the nearest AWOL apprehension team will come and return him or her to military control.

Do not wait until the last minute to return from leave. Travel delays and cancellations are not acceptable reasons for being late. Contact someone in the chain of command immediately by using the contact numbers on page 2.

TSA (continued from Page 1)

the bag neatly if a physical search is required. Take valuables and electronics with you as carry-on items unless they are prohibited. If you wish to lock checked baggage, use a TSA-recognized lock.

Transport of Weapons by an Individual Soldier

Firearms, ammunition and firearm parts may only be transported in checked baggage. Firearms, ammunition and firearm parts are prohibited in carry-on baggage.

If you have just returned from overseas duty or any assignment where you carried a gun or ammunition, be sure to double check belongings, particularly carry-on bags, to make sure firearms, parts or ammunition are not present.

• Sharp objects and tools, knives, pointed scissors and certain tools are prohibited in carry-on luggage. These items should be packed in checked luggage. Any sharp objects packed in checked luggage should be sheathed or securely wrapped to prevent injury to baggage handlers and security screeners.

• Because of security concerns, all lighters are banned from carry-on luggage, including lighters that don't use fuel such as electric lighters with a battery and nichrome element. Lighters that do not contain fuel are permitted in checked baggage, but fueled lighters are not.

• Matches are not permitted in checked baggage because of safety regulations, but one book of safety matches is allowed in carry-on baggage or on your person. For safety reasons, strike anywhere matches are prohibited at all times from carry-on and checked baggage.

• Hazardous Materials: For a list of hazardous materials that are prohibited from the airplane, please visit the Federal Aviation Administration online at www.faa.gov.

Note: Checked bag fee will be waived if service members present their ID, DA Form 31 and BCT or AIT orders.

Instructions for Soldiers while traveling (CONUS or OCONUS)

- Stay in proper uniform: ACU with beret.
- No smoking.
- No drinking alcohol.
- No sitting on the floor.
- No sleeping on the floor or across chairs.
- No pornography.
- No loud, obnoxious or obscene talking.
- Do not associate with local solicitors.
- Maintain control of personal bags at all times.
- Be aware of your environment.

- Report any suspicious behavior/packages to the nearest law enforcement officer.
- Do not discuss information that is classified or personal in nature.
- Think OPSEC.
- Large groups of Soldiers in uniform are low-risk targets.
- Uniformed Soldiers presence portrays to the American public that travel is safe.
- Soldiers traveling home in uniform exhibit pride in their individual and unit accomplishments.

